

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method of distributing music to customer households comprising the steps of:

blanket transmitting simultaneously a plurality of music selections to a plurality of customer households for receipt on a plurality of inputs;

providing at least one customer household with information identifying available music selections that will be transmitted;

enabling the at least one customer household to preselect and record transmitted music selections in a storage medium;

permitting the at least one customer household to select previously recorded music selections, that were previously recorded by the at least one customer household in the storage medium, for unrestricted playback;

communicating unrestricted playback selection information regarding previously recorded music selection from the at least one customer household to a central controller system; and

billing the at least one customer household for the recorded music selections that are selected for unrestricted playback.

2. (previously presented) The method for distributing music as claimed in claim 1, wherein said transmitting step includes transmitting digital music content at data transmission rates faster than real time.

3. (previously presented) The method for distributing music as claimed in claim 1, wherein said information includes music selection content availability, scheduling and content pricing data.

4. (previously presented) The method for distributing music as claimed in Claim 3, wherein said enabling step includes providing an interactive program guide via a display device for enabling customers to select available digital music content and select functions for recording said music content and functions for playing back recorded music content.

5. (previously presented) The method for distributing music as claims in Claim 4, further comprising the steps of: receiving and decoding transmitted music selection and associated information and storing decoded music selections and associated information in a digital data storage device for temporary storage thereof.

6. (previously presented) The method for distributing music as claimed in Claim 5, further comprising the step of providing remote access to said decoded content availability, scheduling and content pricing data, said remote access including a direct Internet access link to a website of the content provider or via phone line connection.

7. (previously presented) The method for distributing music as claimed in Claim 6, further including the step of enabling a customer to listen to decoded and stored music selections one or more times on a no-charge basis prior to permanently selecting said recorded music selection that the customer desires to maintain for unrestricted playback.

8. (previously presented) The method for distributing music as claims in Claim 7, further including the step of generating a permanent enabling code for inclusion with said permanent recorded music selections to thereby enable unrestricted playback.

9. (previously presented) The method for distributing music as claims in Claim 1, wherein said broadcasting transmission system includes a direct broadcast satellite (DBS) system, said transmitting step comprising: scheduling and transmitting encoded music content to a direct broadcast satellite up-link facility via said central controller, said means additionally transmitting program/pricing information to said up-link facility on a periodic basis.

10. (currently amended) A system for distributing music to customer households comprising:

a transmission means operable to:

simultaneously blanket transmit a plurality of music selections and information identifying available music selections to a plurality of customer households; and

provide at least one customer household with information identifying available music selections that will be transmitted;

a computer-based recording, storage and playback station at the least one customer household, said station comprising:

means enabling the at least one customer household to preselect and record transmitted music selections in a storage medium;

means for receiving simultaneous transmission of multiple music selection on a plurality of inputs and for recording the received music selections in a storage medium;

means enabling the customer to select previously recorded music selections, that were previously recorded by the at least one customer household in the storage medium, for unrestricted playback; and

means for communicating unrestricted playback selection information regarding previously recorded music selection, that was previously recorded by the at least one customer household in the storage medium, from the at least one customer household to a central controller system; and

a billing system associated with the central controller system to bill the at least one customer household for the recorded music selections that are selected for unrestricted playback.

11. (previously presented) The system for distributing music as claimed in Claim 10, wherein said transmission means includes direct broadcast satellite (DBS) system.

12. (previously presented) The system for distributing music as claimed in Claim 11, wherein said transmission means transmits digital music content at a data transmission rates faster than real time.

13. (previously presented) The system for distributing music as claimed in Claim 11, wherein said information includes music selection content availability, scheduling and content pricing data.

14. (previously presented) The system for distributing music as claimed in Claim 13, wherein said means permitting the customer household to preselect desired transmitted music selections for recording includes interactive means providing a program guide via a display device for enabling customers to select available digital music content, said interactive means further enabling the customer to select functions for recording said music content and functions for playing back recorded music content.

15. (previously presented) The system for distributing music as claimed in Claim 13, wherein said computer-based recording, storage and playback station further comprises a decoder device for receiving and decoding transmitted music selections and associated information and storing decoded music selections and associated information in a digital data storage device for temporary storage thereof.

16. (previously presented) The system for distributing music as claimed in Claim 13, further comprising means enabling remote access to said decoded content availability, scheduling and content pricing data, said remote access including a direct Internet access link to a website of the content provider or via phone line connection.

17. (previously presented) The system for distributing music as claimed in Claim 14, wherein said storage medium includes on selected from the group comprising: a read/write CD's, write only CD's, DVD RAM, magneto-optical disc, and digital tape, said means for recording including a device having a write/read mechanism for recording and playback of music content thereof.

18. (previously presented) The system for distributing music as claimed in Claim 15, further including means enabling a customer to listen to decoded and stored music selections one or more times on a no-charge basis prior to permanently selecting said recorded music selections that the customer desires to maintain for unrestricted playback.

19. (previously presented) The system for distributing music as claimed in Claim 18, further including means for generating a permanent enabling code that is provided subsequent to the recording of music selections that operates in cooperation with said permanent recorded music selections to thereby enable said unrestricted playback.

20. (previously presented) The system for distributing music as claimed in Claim 16, further including means for scheduling and transmitting encoded music content to a direct broadcast satellite up-link facility via said central controller, said means additionally transmitting program/pricing information to said up-link facility on a periodic basis.

21. (previously presented) The system for distributing music as claimed in Claim 11, wherein said direct broadcast satellite transmission operates in the KU Band of signals frequency communication, or other suitable frequency bands.

22. (previously presented) The system for distributing music as claimed in Claim 11, wherein said means for recording desired music selections in a storage medium direct includes a multiple disc platter for storing multiple disks each comprising recorded stored multimedia content.

23. (previously presented) The system for distributing music as claimed in Claim 11, wherein said computer-based recording, storage and playback station further includes digital content/programming transmission links including one or more selected from the group comprising: cable, optical fiber, DSL and Internet connections.

24. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the transmitted music is recorded on DVD RAM.

25. (previously presented) The system of claim 10, wherein the means for recording comprises DVD RAM.

26. (currently amended) A method of distributing music to customer households comprising the steps of:

blanket transmitting at faster than real time speeds a plurality of music selections to a plurality of customer households;

providing at least one customer household with information identifying available music selections that will be transmitted;

enabling the at least one customer household to preselect and record transmitted music selections;

permitting the at least one customer household to select previously recorded music selections, that were previously recorded by the at least one customer household in the storage medium, for unrestricted playback;

communicating unrestricted playback selection information regarding the previously recorded music selections, that were previously recorded by the at least one customer household in the storage medium, from the at least one customer household to a central controller system; and

billing the at least one customer household for the recorded music selections that are selected for unrestricted playback.

27. (currently amended) A system for distributing music to customer households comprising:

a transmitter blanket transmitting, at faster than real time speeds, a plurality of music selections and information identifying available music selections to a plurality of customer households;

a computer-based recording, storage and playback station at least one customer household, said station comprising:

a firsts first interface enabling the customer to preselect, from the transmitted availability information, available music selections for recording;

a recording module recording transmitted music selections in a storage medium;

a second interface enabling the customer to select previously recorded music selections, that were previously recorded by the at least one customer household in the storage medium, to maintain for unrestricted playback; and

an output communicating unrestricted playback selection information from the user station to a central controller system; and,

a billing system associated with the central controller system to bill the at least one customer household for the recorded music selections, that were previously recorded by the at least one customer household in the storage medium and that are selected for unrestricted playback.

28. (currently amended) A method of distributing music to customer households comprising the steps of:

blanket transmitting a plurality of music selections to a plurality of customer households;

providing at least one customer household with information identifying available music selections that will be transmitted;

enabling the at least one customer household to preselect and record transmitted music selections on DVD-RAM;

permitting the at least one customer household to select previously recorded music selections, that were previously recorded by the at least one customer household in the storage medium, for unrestricted playback;

communicating unrestricted playback selection information from the at least one customer household to a central controller system; and

billing the at least one customer household for the recorded music selections that were previously recorded by the at least one customer household in the storage medium and that are selected for unrestricted playback.

29. (canceled).

30. (previously presented) The system of claim 29, wherein the recording module further comprises a multidisk DVD RAM platter.

31. (previously presented) A user station for enabling unrestricted playback of previously recorded music selections, the system comprising the components of:

a first interface enabling the customer to select previously recorded music selections to maintain for unrestricted playback;

a second interface for communicating unrestricted playback selection information from the user station to a central controller system and for receiving enabling information for enabling unrestricted playback of the previously recorded music selections; and

a billing system associated with the central controller system to bill the customer associated with the user station for the recorded music selections that are selected for unrestricted playback.